

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2584

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S E C R E T AMMAN 5816

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS AID FOR ADMINISTRATOR PARKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, US, JO

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE, BUDGET SUPPORT

REFS: (A) STATE 209927

(B) AMMAN 5327

(C) AMMAN 5625

1. APPRECIATE FACT THAT YOU ARE BOTH DEEPLY INVOLVED
IN OTHER MATTERS. NVERTHELESS YOU HAVE BEEN GENEROUS
IN YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST AND SUPPORT IN PAST AND
WE ARE REACHING A POINT WHERE I BELIEVE WE CAN NO LONGER
HOLD OFF BRINGING ISSUE TO YOUR ATTENTION. WITH PUBLICATION
BY NYT OF AMBASSADOR EILTS'S CABLE ON ABOVE SUBJECT (WIRELESS
FILE SEPTEMBER 30) MY POSITION HERE ON SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE BECOMING
DOUBLEY DIFFICUTL.

ON ONE HAND I HAVE NOT INFORMED PRIME MINISTER OF
DECISION TO LIVE WITH CRA FOR NEXT QUARTER (REF A);
THIS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY APPARENT CONTINUING CONGRESSIONAL
CONSIDERATION OF FAA. ON OTHER HAND I HAVE ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING TO TELL HIM ON QUESTION OF PAYMENT FOR NEXT QUARTER
(REF B). LATTER SITUATION IS NOT ONLY EMBARRASSING FOR USG,
BUT VERY DETRIMENTAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP AS TIME FOR
SECRETARY'S VISIT APPROACHES. MY FIRM HOPE IS THAT WE CAN
RESOLVE REMAINING PROBLEMS IN WASHINGTON WELL IN ADVANCE

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OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO REMOVE THIS NEURALGIC PROBLEM FROM AGENDA.

2. MY CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT OUR BUDGET SUPPORT PROGRAM, DESIGNED IN LARGE MEASURE TO SUPPORT OUR BASIC POLITICAL OBJECTIVES IN JORDAN, HAS NOW BECOME NOT ONLY A LIABILITY, BUT POINT OF CONSTANT TENSION AND IRRITATION BETWEEN US AND JORDANIANS. IN MIDDLE EAST SOVIETS COME IN FOR HEAVY CRITICISM BECAUSE OF THOUGHTLESS ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. WE ARE PUTTING OURSELVES IN SAME POSITION WITH JORDANIANS. RECOGNIZE THERE ARE PROBABLY IMPORTANT FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED, BUT I AM FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHY EVEN A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO GOJ REQUEST (REF C) IS NOT POSSIBLE. KING AND PRIME MINISTER IN AUGUST TALKED TO WIDE CIRCLE OF SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN, INCLUDING CHAIRMAN MAHON, AND ALL TOLD JORDANISN THEY HAVE SUPPORT ON HILL. JORDANIANS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT HILL, ADMINISTRATION, AND PUBLIC WILL BACK THEM.

3. WE HAVE TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES: FUNDING LEVELS AND TIMING. ON TIMING, GIVEN EXTENSION OF CRA, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD EXPEDITE BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS TO ACHIEVE EARLIEST POSSIBLE PAYMENT. WE HAVE EXPLAINED EXTENSIVELY JORDANIAN NNEED FOR FUNDS. POLITICAL FACTORS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN ECONOMIC IN THIS CONNECTION AND EARLY MOVE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WILL BE HEARTENING TO JORDANIANS WHO HAVE HAD DOUBTS ABOUT WHETHER THEIR CONTINUING CONFIDENCE IN US SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IS OR IS NOT MISPLACED. AT ALL COSTS, WE SHOULD AVOID REPEATING THIS QUARTER EXTENSIVE BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS WHICH MEANT ACTUAL FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO JORDAN LAST QUARTER UNTIL FIVE WEEKS OF MASSAGING HAD PASSED.

4. FUNDING LEVELS: JORDANIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD AT HIGH LEVEL WITHIN USG OF "THEIR SHARE" ON ANNUAL AND QUARTERLY BASIS OF CRA; THEY TAKE THIS AS A MINIMUM COMMITMENT. LAST QUARTER WE FELL \$3.75M BELOW THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF "THEIR SHARE". THIS QUARTER AT BARE MINIMUM WE SHOULD PROVIDE \$13.75M PLUS A MAKE-UP OF \$3.75M FOR A TOTAL OF \$17.50M FOR QUARTER. IF WE ARE TO HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD FOR JORDANIANS POLITICALLY AND IN VIEW OF UPCOMING TRIP BY SECRETARY, WE SHOULD MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO INCREASE AMOUNT

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TO \$20M FOR QUARTER.

5. I HAVE HELD OFF FOR SOME TIME RAISING THIS ISSUE WITH YOU PERSONALLY IN KNOWLEDGE THAT OTHER MORE SERIOUS QUESTIONS WERE BEING DEALT WITH. I BELIEVE NOW HOWEVER THAT WE SHOULD DEAL QUICKLY AND GENEROUSLY WITH THIS ONE. WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR EARLY CONSIDERATION AND RESPONSE. PICKERING

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